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James H. Quillen College of Medicine

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May 15, 1996

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Room 222
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Secretary:

I am writing in support of affordable telecommunications rates for libraries, schools, and rural health care providers. As a medical librarian involved with the training of rural health care professionals, I know the value of access to information for the poor and underserved.

I advocate adoption of American Library Association recommendations to the Federal Communications Commission. Local communities and library users can benefit from library telecommunications services because of affordable rates. Libraries need the capabilities to support high bandwidth, interactive applications. Discount rates in poor, rural areas would help in overcoming the numerous barriers that people living in such areas have by opening the doors of access to consumers and businesses.

Everyone needs access to the Internet. In the very near future, it will be as basic to American life as the telephone and the television. As libraries provide access to books that many could not afford to buy for themselves, libraries can provide access to networked information. Discounts to libraries in the prices of books, rather than harming the booksellers, have improved book sales by increasing literacy and consumer demand for books. Discounts to libraries in the pricing of telecommunications services will provide similar results for the marketers of those services. Affordable telecommunications pricing for libraries and schools will serve the producers as well as the American public, both now and in the future.

Sincerely yours,

Kelly Hensley
Assistant Professor

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East Tennessee State University
James H. Quillen College of Medicine

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May 17, 1996

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MAY 24 1996

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Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Room 222
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Secretary:

I am writing in support of affordable telecommunications rates for libraries, schools, and rural health care providers. As an Assistant Director of a medical library involved with the training of rural health care professionals, I know the value of access to information for the poor and underserved.

I advocate adoption of American Library Association recommendations to the Federal Communications Commission. Local communities and library users can benefit from library telecommunications services because of affordable rates. Libraries need the capabilities to support high bandwidth, interactive applications. Discount rates in poor, rural areas would help in overcoming the numerous barriers that people living in such areas have by opening the doors of access to consumers and businesses.

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Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna J. Watkins".
Donna J. Watkins
Assistant Director

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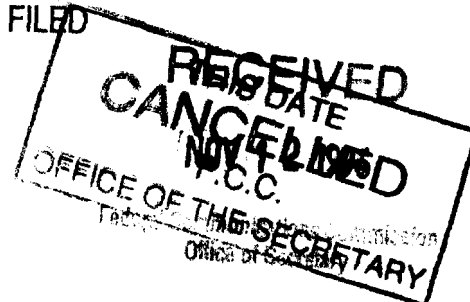
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May 16, 1996

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 222
Washington, D.C. 20554



Dear Commission Members:

I'm writing to ask you to favorably consider the ALA proposals, library telecommunications services, and affordable telecommunications rates. The following proposals are important to continue services to both the information rich and the information poor:

1. An expansive definition of discounted services for libraries which includes all telecommunications services available commercially or by tariff or through contract;
2. Emphasis on the need to support high bandwidth, interactive library applications in libraries and schools;
3. Discount rates for telecommunications services should be either 1) the lowest price offered to any customer or 2) a wholesale price or fair cost price that is based on the Total Service Long Run Incremental Costs (TS-LRIC) of a service, whichever is lower;
4. Libraries and schools in rural, insular and high-cost areas should received deeper discounts because of the special barriers to affordable connections;
5. Core universal services for the residential consumers should be defined, at the very least, as the level of technology required for entry level access to the Internet;
6. Certification and eligibility requirements should not be onerous, should provide accountability, and should include libraries and schools that participate in appropriate cooperative network arrangements.

I appreciate your consideration of the necessity of libraries continuing to afford to provide services to American citizens.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Spurrier

Suzanne Spurrier
Library Director

trb

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